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OLC 70-0042 16 January 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Representative John O. Marsh (D., Va.)

Concerning his Recent Trip to Vietnam and Laos

- 1. Representative John O. Marsh (D., Va.), who returned from extensive travel in Vietnam and Laos last night, called today and said he would like to talk with me about his trip. I met with him at his home for about three hours.
- 2. Mr. Marsh traveled under the specific direction of the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Mr. Mahon, and carried with him a letter from the Chairman outlining the broad scope of his objectives. (Copy attached.) Mr. Marsh did not dwell too much on his travel in Vietnam (itinerary attached) but he obviously covered a great deal of territory and was well received there by both U.S. and South Vietnamese leaders. During his stay in Vietnam he had an opportunity to meet with President Thieu. Ambassador Bunker accompanied him on this visit.

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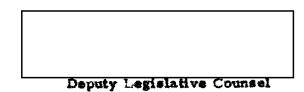
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	t t t man at the water
	5. Mr. Marsh said he was tremendously impressed by what
is	being done in Laos. He said he had just about decided to write off ass before his visit but he is now convinced that maintaining our
سا . ــ	esent policy there is essential to the future of Southeast Asia.
3.4	anch was of course impressed with the work that General vang fee
4.0	doing. He mentioned that Pao was making good use of Soviet tails
	d touche close with small arms and ammunition which he has
~	whered. Marsh said that a number of pictures were taken during
3.4	a visit to the Plaines. He thought Chairman Manon would be
ir	terested in seeing these if we are able to get copies of them.
	6. Mr. Marsh also mentioned that Vang Pao had given him a
-	ing with a specially made setting attached to the ring by fine wire. He
	and he didn't wear the ring often but somehow the setting was tost and
1	a is new concerned shout it. (This is apparently a special ring which
¥.	and Dan gives to his visitors.) Marsh said if he could get a design of
ti	ne setting he would try to have it copied. He does not want Vang Pao
t	know that the setting was lost.
	7. Mr. Marsh also mentioned in passing that a state senator
£	wown Alaska Mater identified as Senator Lewis) arrived in Vietnam
	hortly before Marsh's departure and was taken in tow by a man
	in the March of March Checked on Lewis waters
	top-over in Alaska on his return and learned that Lewis supposedly is
	He thought it might be useful for to know this.
	8. Mr. Marsh is interested in having follow-up conversations with
e	case but at the moment he is: more
49	relate to meet with our Laos ceople in order to orient nimsell on a map
	a the warrious places that he visited in Laos. These places were marked
	m bla Hinarary only by numbered landing sites. Arrangements have
•	seen made for him to visit Headquarters sometime Monday, at which

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7. Marsh said his report to Chairman Mahon will be classified. He also said he does not propose to publicize his visit to the Plaine des Jarres. His report will be in relatively low key and he will indicate to Mr. Mahon that he does not plan to discuss sensitive aspects of his trip except at the direction of the Chairman. He said he would like to talk with us further about the handling of his report to Mahon when he meets with us on Monday.



Attachments:

Letter from Chairman Mahon Itinerary

Distribution:

Original - Subject w/atts

1 - DD/P w/e atts

1 - C/FE w/o atts

1 - w/o atts

1 - SAVA (Mr. Carver) w/o atts

1 - OLC Chrono w/o atts

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